

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating communications at a proxy in a network comprising:

receiving a message from a mobile unit having a contact address;

~~establishing a contact alias associated with the mobile unit and the contact~~  
address;

intercepting and identifying at the proxy at least one signaling message for the mobile unit that includes the contact ~~alias~~ address;

compressing the at least one signaling message that includes the contact alias; ~~and~~

routing the compressed at least one signaling message to the mobile unit with the contact address;

~~intercepting and intercepting at the proxy at least one later signal message for the~~  
mobile unit;

~~not sending a second message corresponding to the at least one later message to~~  
the mobile unit;

~~generating a response message in response to receiving the at least one later~~  
message, and

sending the response message to a server.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

~~establishing a contact alias associated with the mobile unit and the contact~~  
address, the contact alias substantially containing the contact address and

wherein the intercepting and identifying at the proxy at least one later signal  
message for the mobile unit further comprises identifying the at least one later signal  
message using the contact alias;

~~not sending a second message corresponding to the at least one later message to~~  
~~the mobile unit;~~

~~generating a response message in response to receiving the at least one later~~  
~~message; and~~

~~sending the response message to a server.~~

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the message from the mobile unit is one of a SIP REGISTER message, a SIP INVITE message; a SIP OK message; a SIP OPTIONS message; and a SIP BYE message.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising decompressing a signaling message received from the mobile unit and forwarding the decompressed signaling message to a server.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the message from the mobile unit having a contact address, comprises receiving a registration message that includes an indication that the mobile unit processes compressed messages.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the message from the mobile unit having a contact address, includes receiving a capabilities header indicating an ability to process compressed messages.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising advertising the presence of a proxy for signaling message compression to the mobile unit.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of intercepting and identifying at the proxy at least one signaling message includes intercepting and identifying a SIP message.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of compressing communications at a proxy for SIP message compression, the method comprising:

~~transmitting a message with a contact address from a mobile unit;~~  
receiving ~~the a~~ message with a contact address from the mobile unit having the contact address;  
~~establishing a contact alias associated with the mobile unit and the contact address; and~~

intercepting and identifying at the proxy at least one SIP message that includes the contact alias-address;

compressing the at least one SIP message that includes the contact address at the proxy to obtain at least one corresponding compressed message;

routing the at least one corresponding compressed message to the mobile unit;

intercepting and identifying at the proxy at least one later SIP message from a server, the message directed to the mobile unit;

determining that there is not need to route a message corresponding to the at least one later SIP message to the mobile unit;

generating an SIP response message for the at least one later SIP message; and

sending the SIP response message to the server.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

~~—— compressing the at least one SIP message that includes the contact alias to obtain at least one compressed message;~~

~~—— routing the at least one compressed message to the mobile unit with the contact address; and receiving the at least one compressed message at the mobile unit~~

establishing a contact alias associated with the mobile unit and the contact address, the contact alias substantially containing the contact address, and

wherein the intercepting and identifying the at least one SIP message that includes the contact address comprises intercepting the at least one SIP message on the contact alias.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the message with the contact address is one of a SIP REGISTER message; a SIP INVITE message; a SIP OK message; a SIP BYE message; and a SIP OPTIONS message.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising decompressing a SIP message received from the mobile unit and forwarding the decompressed SIP message to ~~[[a]]~~ the server.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the message with the contact address includes an indication that the mobile unit processes compressed messages.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising advertising the presence of the proxy for SIP message compression to the mobile unit.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising receiving authentication information from the mobile unit to facilitate authentication of [[a]] the mobile unit.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 9 wherein the at least one compressed message is a legacy cellular call setup message.

17. A device for facilitating communications in a network with a mobile unit having a contact address comprising:

~~an alias register storing a contact alias associated with a contact address of a mobile unit;~~

a SIP register storing a SIP message, the message identifiable as being destined for the ~~contact alias associated with the~~ contact address of the mobile unit; and

a controller coupled to ~~the alias register and~~ the SIP register and having an output, the controller compressing the SIP message in the SIP register and placing the compressed SIP message on the output for transmitting the compressed message to the mobile unit wherein the controller being programmed for receiving a second SIP message in the SIP register, determining that there is no need to send a message to the mobile unit corresponding to the second SIP message, generating a SIP response message to the second SIP message on behalf of the mobile unit and placing the SIP response message on the output for transmitting the compressed message to a server.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein ~~the controller comprises means for transmitting the compressed SIP message at the output to the mobile unit~~ is a legacy cellular call setup message.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the second SIP message is an authentication request ~~controller comprises means for receiving SIP messages destined for the mobile unit.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising an alias register storing a contact alias associated with the contact address of the mobile unit and wherein the controller comprises means for determining and forming the contact alias in the alias register.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the controller forms the contact alias such that it contains the contact address information.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the controller comprises means for compressing and routing the SIP messages to the mobile unit upon a determination that the SIP message is ~~destined for the mobile unit~~ directed to a contact alias.